

Annual Report
2010-2011

Celebrating 25 Years





A quarter of a century is certainly a long time, but after our middle school trip to Atlanta, and a visit to Morehouse, Spelman and Tuskegee I remain mindful of real legacy building. The work and intense commitment of Booker T. Washington and others, remains the model for how we move our educational community forward.

Their challenges also communicate to us the importance of control, integrity, and authenticity. What we do, and what we create must represent the best examples of what it means to be an Af-

frican in America in 2011. We must be willing to examine our history and draw upon the best examples of greatness and high achievement, and at the same time, look with an honest eye to ensure we avoid unnecessary pitfalls.

Our future is not assured. But be mindful that there is no enemy at our gate, save the enemy of hard work, sacrifice, and commitment.

Our school has always operated without a safety net. We don't have a large endowment or thousands of donors. Our school lies in the heart of a low-income community in East Oakland, and our families are drawn across all income brackets.

Yet we exist to serve us all. To provide the highest quality education at an affordable tuition. To ensure all of our children have the benefit and opportunity of our vision.

Where else can every student receive a laptop? A musical instrument? Travel to Washington, DC for a week for under \$400? Eat meals prepared with such love that it makes your eyes water?

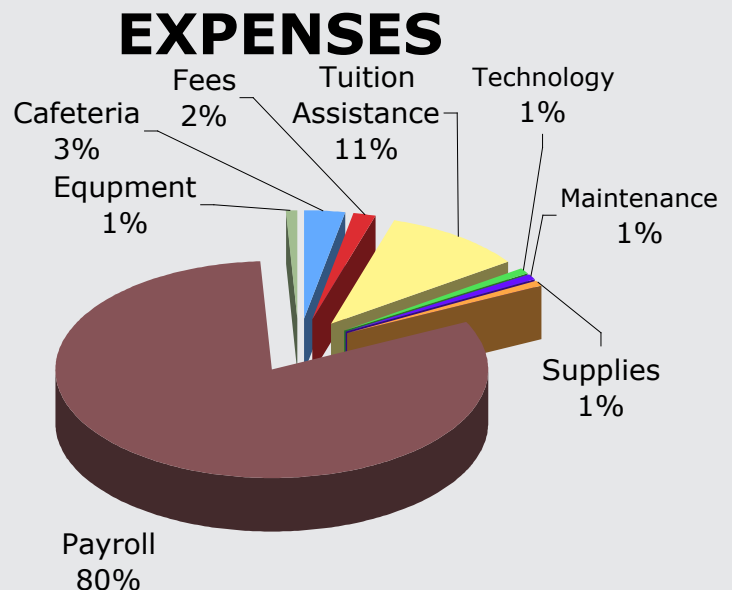
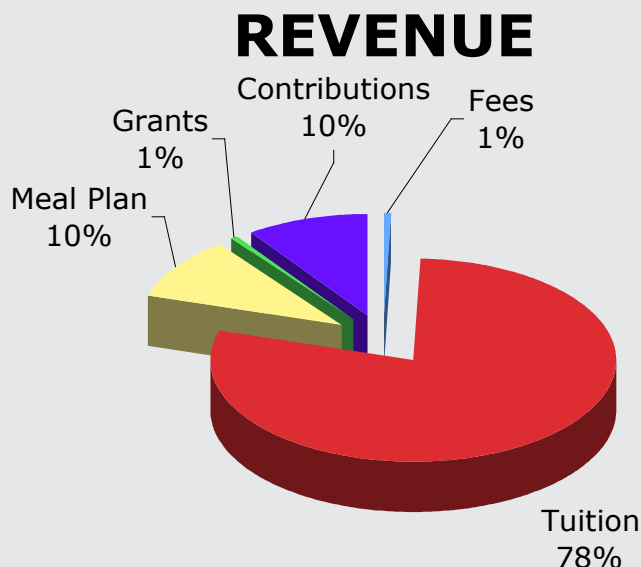
We are that place - and that place we shall remain. With your support and love we will continue to love our children, and provide them the finest education possible. And we will ask only one thing of ourselves and of them.

From us - that we remain examples of excellence as brothers, sisters, husbands and wives; and from them - that they never cower, never bend, but let the world always see them in their most brilliant visage.

Let "this little light of" ours illuminate a pathway for us all.

Jahi Awakoaye
Director

2010-2011* Annual Giving Summary



*Partial summary, through May, 2011

1986 Ile Omode, the “House of the Children”, is founded. Twelve preschool-age students, primarily children from Wo’se, are enrolled in a home school .

1988 School relocates to 8924 Holly Street in Oakland.

1990 Third and fourth grade classes added.

1993 School expands to include 5th and 6th grade.

1996 School is wired by Intel volunteers on national NetDay.

2001 First Gumbo Night fundraiser...First commercial appears on SoulBeat...Launched Friends of Ile Omode

2002 Computer lab established; funded by a donation from Intel and HP.

2003 Preschool classroom expanded, and a second preschool room added.

2005 Awarded Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - Cesar Chavez Day of Service grant ...Mildred Rose opens on-site cafeteria...Received Intel Volunteer Grant Matching Fund

2006 Received grant from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women...Began pen-pal program with Liberian school...Received Chicago “Community Trailblazer” award.

2007 Mobile Initiative begins - up to 100 laptops and 100 laptop computers. Student authored book on mobile computing.

2008 Full middle school offered, so Adrien Herron becomes the first middle schooler...Students take first out-of-state trip...Winning the middle school college and high school award.

2009 First concurrently enrolled Algebra 2.

2010 Received Community grant resulting in the building of a new playstructure and a permanent basketball court...Received City Slickers grant, its first award for a garden project in East Oakland.

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ILE OMODE SCHOOL

8924 Holly Street
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 632-8230
<http://www.ileomode.org>

MEMBERSHIP

The school is a member of the Council of Independent Black Institutions (CIBI).



25 Years
Educating, Uplifting, and Growing
Founded, 1986

Celebrating Academic Achievement

Communities that want their young people to strive for academic excellence must celebrate academic achievement with the same level of ferocity that it celebrates dunks and touchdowns.

Taking this to heart, Ile Omode instituted scholastic awards nearly 10 years ago, and has expanded the idea ever since.

During each graduation and promotion ceremony students are recognized for excellence in mathematics, language arts (reading, writing, and grammar), and social studies. Students receive an award by demonstrating excellence throughout the year, or by earning a score of 90% on the cumulative final exams administered during the last week of school.

During one graduation ceremony one student attended the promotion exercises wearing his medals from the previous year - he apparently wanted everyone to know he was adding to an existing cache.

Pretrice Curry-Bossett, mother of a 4th grader, prominently displays the awards at home, and her son is "encouraged and motivated" by the honors he receives.

In 2009, the school announced the "Dr. W.E.B. DuBois - Mary McLeod Bethune Scholars Award", given to students in the middle school who demonstrate excellence across multiple subjects, and who have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.



Zenzile Earns Scholarship

Zenzile Riddick, after setting her heart on attending Bishop O'Dowd, was recently awarded the President's Scholarship at Bishop O'Dowd, and will enter the Oakland Catholic private school in the fall.

The scholarship is only offered to a select number of students each year, and Zenzile's application and character clearly shined.

The honor, along with providing a financial award that lowers the cost of tuition, also admits recipients into Bishop O'Dowd's honors courses without the need to take placement exams. Thus Zenzile is enrolled in Biology (an honors course), along with Honors English, Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry, Honors Geo-History, and Advanced Spanish 2.

The 8th grader is excited about high school, but is reminded that, "it wouldn't have been possible without my Ile Omode teachers".



Students are recognized with a medal, and it has become such an honor that students talk with their parents about earning a medal before the school year even begins.

This honor was coupled with a scholar's plaque, which honors all middle school students who earn a 3.5 GPA or higher each term.

Online Grading System Helps Parents Monitor Progress


This year Ile Omode moved to an online grading system. The search for an online grading system began several years ago, but the cost and feature-set were prohibitive, and the school continued to use in-house developed solutions. The solutions were functional, but didn't provide a comprehensive, and seamless solution.

The administration wanted an online solution which would provide ready access to parents. They also wanted to limit the cost to avoid having to pass the cost on to parents, an approach taken by many private schools.

Nevertheless it is a full solution, and as the administration and teachers become more adept at its tools, parents can expect more services to migrate to TeacherEase. The administration is already exploring using its online registration feature.

The tool has allowed parents to track their children's progress. Using TeacherEase, parents can see all their child's assignments, grades, and readily receive notices from teachers.

The program supports student access as well, and middle school students have received accounts on



Term	Class	Instructor	Current Score
2010-11 Q3	Geometry	Baba Awakoaiye	89.39% = A-
2010-11 Q3	Computer Technology	Baba Awakoaiye	95.18% = A
2010-11 Q3	Earth Science	Baba Awakoaiye	96.38% = A
2010-11 Q3	Humanities 2	Mama Levine	98.58% = A+
2010-11 Q3	Homeroom	Mama Levine	Details
2010-11 Q3	Dance	Baba Muhammad	100% = A+
2010-11 Q3	Medieval and Early Modern Times	Baba Omari	101.35% = A+
2010-11 Q3	Spanish 1B	Mama Ramos	92.32% = A
2010-11 Q3	Graphic Novel Design	Mama Ramos	96.07% = A
2010-11 Q3	Jazz Band	Teacher	Details
2010-11 Q3	Health/Physical Fitness	Teacher	97.31% = A

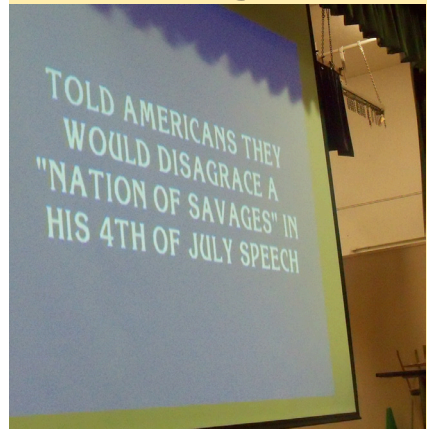
The adoption of TeacherEase proved to be a near-perfect fit. The online grading system allowed the school to migrate most of its internal operations, including weekly lesson plans, assignments, and grading.

While TeacherEase is a great solution, it isn't perfect for the schools' use, and a few features from the previous system remain, such as the use of daily homework sheets for elementary students.

TeacherEase. They routinely use the system to check their grades and assignments. Seventh grader Maia Morgan, uses TeacherEase daily, and says, "it helps me get better grades", and she no longer has a need for a day planner.

It has allowed students to take greater responsibility for their work, and this is helping them to become better students.

Winners of the 2nd Annual Dr. Carter G. Woodson Black History Bowl



For the second consecutive year, Ile Omode, captured first place in the elementary and middle school divisions of the 2nd Annual Dr. Carter G. Woodson Black History Bowl.

The annual event continues the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson to promote the study of Black history, and to promote academic excellence. Sponsored by Verizon, 100 Black Men, and Oakland Unified School District, the event was held at Frick Middle School in Oakland, California.

The elementary team was challenged, but the middle school competition was easily won by Ile Omode's "A" team. The team included several returning players.

In a surprise move, the school fielded its middle school "B" team to compete in the high school competition, and although it was a challenging match, they secured the victory as well.



Nationally Ranked Track Athletes*

KARA AWAKOAIYE (7th grade)

#1 in 80 Meter Hurdles

#14 in 200 Meters

#19 - 100 Meters

DANTE JOHNSON (8th grade)

#5 - 200 Meter Hurdles

#7 - 100 Meter Hurdles

#21 - 100 Meters

#46 - 200 Meters

TIERRA ROBINSON (5th grade)

#4 - 4x100 Relay (with KaRa)

#36 - 400 Meters

#52 - 200 Meters

*As of May, 2011, courtesy of eliteyouth.com



Sports at Ile Omode

Having fun and success in organized sports

A school with no track, goalpost, nor soccer field has produced nationally ranked runners, football champions, and an undefeated soccer team. Sounds impossible?

The impossible is anything but impossible if organizations work together to harness their strengths. Oakland is a treasure trove of sports organizations run by talented volunteers.

Rather than reinvent the wheel Ile Omode has partnered with strong sports program, providing our students with an opportunity to receive training from some of the strongest coaches in the Bay Area, and garner both local and national recognition.

Dr. Jamal Cooks, a professor at San Francisco State University, Ile Omode parent, and head track coach at Skyline High School and a youth track club, **C.A. Track Club**, has taken several of our students to national prominence. The 11-12 year old girls relay team (with 7th grader KaRa Awakoaiye, and 5th grader Tierra Robinson) is ranked 4th in the country (see side bar for other rankings).

Dr. Cooks believes that Ile Omode students understand commitment and dedication, and don't "take short cuts [and] this attitude and perspective becomes contagious on the team. The result is a very competent and confident team that is ready for anything".

Often parents with a passion for a sport will drive the partnership. Shakur Windross has been a soccer enthusiasts all his life, and initiated the development of an Ile Omode soccer team through the

Grass Valley Vipers. The Under 12, and Under 10 teams compete in the fall and spring seasons, and the Under 12 team won the league championship in the fall.

Dr. Charles Bossett (DDS), a parent and member of the Ile Omode School Board, is a weekend golfer, garnering awards annually, and has recruited several young students to participate in the **Lake Chabot Junior Golf Academy.**

Baba Pierre Scott, wanted to get involved in youth football, and began coaching with the director, Baba Jahi Awakoaiye, with the **Oakland Dynamites**, perhaps the oldest youth football program in the area. Baba Jahi played with the team as a youth, and is an assistant coach working under head coach, Glenn Green. Over the years over a dozen boys have participated with the team, along with girls on the cheer-leading squad. The Dynamites's Cadet division (under 10) were undefeated and won the league championship, and the Jr. PeeWee team (under 12), led by 7th grader and team captain, Tajiri Hunter, won the Thanksgiving Day Pigskin Bowl Tournament in Las Vegas.

Older girls (10 and older) participate with the **Puma** girls soccer teams (Under 12 and the Under 14 teams), and they have been very successful; finishing the fall season with an 11-2 record, and earning second place in the league.

While other schools continue to scale back their sports program, Ile Omode students are receiving greater opportunity, and in many instances participating in multiple sports throughout the year.



Alums in High School



Marcus Herron ('10) and Bakare Awa-koaiye ('10) continued their success as freshmen at Saint Mary's College High School and Bishop O'Dowd, respectively.

The two were youth football and track teammates throughout middle school, playing for the Oakland Dynamites and running together on two relay teams for C.A. Track Club.

Marcus started on St. Mary's Junior Varsity football team, and was a member of 4x400 relay team which won first in the Bay Shore Athletic League (fresh-soph), and also made the finals in the 400 meters.

At Bishop O'Dowd Bakare started on the freshmen football team, and made it to the Hayward Area Athletic League finals in the 800 meters. He was sidelined by a broken thumb, but returned to start at runningback in the last three games of the season.

But for both young men, their sports accolades is merely a backdrop to their academic success. Marcus had no problems transitioning from Ile Omode's middle school to St. Mary's demanding

curriculum, and found aspects of the coursework to be easy.

Marcus was also assisted by his sister, Adrien Herron ('09), who was Ile Omode's first 8th grade graduate and blazed a trail for her younger brother at St. Mary's.

Bakare continued his success at Bishop O'Dowd, earning a nearly 3.9 GPA, and earning Dean's List honors every semester. He earned Scholar Athlete honors in both track and football, and became a member of the California Scholastic Federation.

After studying music for several years at Ile Omode, first on the clarinet and finally for two years on the saxophone, both young men continued in music, and elected to join their school's jazz band.

The two alums are fine examples of well-rounded students, and look forward to helping the next group of Ile Omode alums transition to high school.

2010-2011 Donors

Asante ("thank you") for every contribution from \$1 to \$1000

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The Adult Division winners at this year's Bowlathon display their hard won trophies

Donor Spotlights



Larry Reid Promises Support to Ile Omode

Ile Omode's district councilman Larry Reid had surprisingly never heard of Ile Omode. Often the school is referred to as Oakland's, "best kept secret", but that isn't often a good thing.

After an invitation to last year's graduation, he was so moved that he visited the school shortly after, and hosted an open forum with students. It was informative, and students got a glimpse of the complexities of managing a city, as well as his long standing commitment to improve the quality of life for African Americans in Oakland.

During the forum he pledged to support Ile Omode. Shortly after his visit, the school received funding to support the music program - allowing the school to purchase new instruments for the jazz band ensemble. His office was also instrumental in funding a school safari field trip.

Gumbo Night Started Another Career

In 2001 Ile Omode was searching for a fundraiser - not content to simply sale candy or cookies, the school was looking for something with a little more ... soul?

It didn't take long for the school's gaze to cast towards Mildred Rose, the director's mother. She was just pondering retirement, after over 20 years working as the cafeteria manager at a local hospital. The New Iberia, Louisiana native was known for her Louisiana gumbo, and one of the school's most successful fundraisers was born.



Soon after beginning Gumbo Night, Mama Rose (as she is affectionately known), volunteered to start a cafeteria at the school; preparing breakfast and lunch weekly. And since that time she continues to volunteer.

The most popular morning at the school is Thursday, better known as "Pancake Day", and it is the one day that every student is guaranteed to be on time for school. Mama Rose's lunches are even more incredible, ranging from healthy southern cuisine, to Chinese, Mexican, and Italian.

Her skills in the kitchen are only matched by her ability to provide incredible meals on a thin budget. Her work is truly a passion of love.

Friends of Ile Omode

Become a Friend of Ile Omode, and help contribute to our mission to empower our youth, so that they may answer the call of their birth, and lift up an entire nation.

Allow us to continue to:

- Send students on college tours
- Provide laptops to every student from 2nd through 8th grade
- Fund a music and performance program to ensure every student is able to participate
- Begin every child's day with a healthy breakfast, and refuel them with a nutritious lunch
- Develop enriching after-school programs
- Purchase science equipment and materials to offer hands-on science experiment
- Offer current textbooks, and continue providing a deeply intrinsic African-inspired curriculum

BECOME A FRIEND OF ILE OMODE TODAY!



The task Africans in America face is monumental: To resurrect African culture. Ile Omode hasn't climbed the mountain, but the performing arts curriculum continues to make fantastic headway.

First grade teacher, Mama Taiwo Seitou-Kujichagulia, brought her training and passion in dance to develop several powerful choreographed routines.

The girl's dance troupe, comprised of girls from the 4th through 8th grade, unveiled a tribute to African-American



spirituals provided several years ago, the school wanted to ensure that instruments were included in the tuition, and parents were not asked to pay additional monies, which would inevitably result in a number of students not being able to participate.

The Wo'se Community has been known for great drumming, and the school is a reflection of this art. The drummers, composed of middle and elementary students performed during the first night of Kwanzaa, and were invited to perform during Merritt College's

A Cultural Revolution

spirituals on the first night of Kwanzaa, and later displayed a praise dance that brought some to tears.

Mama Taiwo was also instrumental in inviting Jashen Edwards who provided a course in world music to the 4th and 5th graders this year. Elementary students were blessed to receive instruction from Connie Bridgeforth, who provided keyboard

instruction and introducing students to music theory.

Middle school students continued to grow as musicians. Baba Damu Sudi Ali was joined by Barbara Hunter and the jazz band course further blossomed. The school's biggest challenge was providing instruments to every student.

When instrument instruction was

Black History program, and at Diamano Coura's annual performance.

Led by Baba Darian LaFoucade and Brother Kele Nitoto, the instruction is one of the few examples of African drumming's inclusion as a core educational course, and is a mainstay at Ile Omode, beginning as early as kindergarten.



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I have loved my work, I have loved people and my play, but always I have been uplifted by the thought that what I have done well will live long and justify my life, that what I have done ill or never finished can now be handed on to others for endless days to be finished, perhaps better than I could have done.

-W.E.B. Dubois

To donate, contact Pamela Young-Williams, Business Manager,
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